

OKINAWA MARINE

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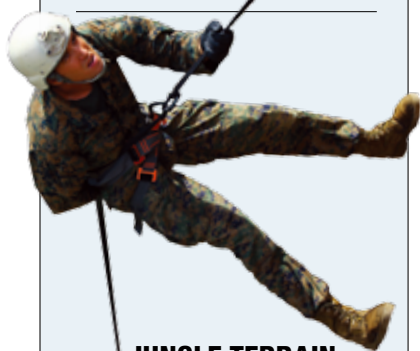
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Western Army welcomes Marine liaison

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
okinawa marine staff

CAMP KENGUN, KUMAMOTO, Japan — The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force welcomed the first III Marine Expeditionary Force liaison officer at Camp Kengun July 31.

Capt. Paul Bartok, the III MEF LNO to the JGSDF, believes the new position will positively impact the Corps' relationship with the JGSDF.

"I think this opportunity is only going to strengthen the alliance between the U.S. and Japan," said Bartok. "Adding a personal touch to everything and having someone that speaks the language always puts a better face on the Marine Corps."

Bartok has been trained as a foreign area officer for Japan, received a master's degree in national

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Capt. Paul Bartok, right, greets Col. Michio Suda, left, during a welcoming ceremony held at Camp Kengun July 31. Bartok traveled to Western Army headquarters at Camp Kengun to become the first liaison officer from III Marine Expeditionary Force assigned to the JGSDF. Suda is the director of the intelligence department for the Western Army, JGSDF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



ROK and U.S. Marines observe as Lance Cpl. Park Seung Yeon fires the M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun July 23 at Nightmare Range, Republic of Korea, during Korean Marine Exchange Program 12-7. Yeon is with 8th Artillery Battalion, 2nd ROK Marine Division. The U.S. Marines are with 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

ROK, US Marines rehearse squad tactics in Korea

Pfc. Anne K. Henry
okinawa marine staff

NIGHTMARE RANGE, Republic of Korea — Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines conducted a fire-and-maneuver exercise July 23 at Nightmare Range, Republic of Korea, during Korean Marine Exchange Program 12-7.

The exercise allowed both ROK and U.S. Marines to rehearse squad-level tactics and fire the MK19 40 mm grenade launcher and M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun.

"We're sending seven squads through a live-fire maneuver with the ROK Marines," said Sgt. Matthew R. Whitfield, a field wireman with 12th

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Iitate Village elementary students visit Camp Foster

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
okinawa marine staff

CAMP FOSTER — Elementary school students from Iitate Village in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, came to Camp Foster on a study trip hosted by the G-7, government and external affairs office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, July 25.

The visit was part of the schools' three-year project to provide the students opportunities to consider the importance of peace from a variety of angles, according to Aya Urasaki, a community relations specialist with G-7.

"This is the second year we have hosted a trip for the students," said Dr. Robert D. Eldridge, the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7.

The students were given a class by Eldridge on the III Marine Expeditionary Force's history and structure and how Marines helped

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Olympics spark memories for many

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

As the 2012 Summer Olympic games take precedence on our television screens, many of us take the time to reflect on the moments spent at the edge of our seats rooting for our countrymen and countrywomen to take home the gold.

Waiting anxiously as they compete for the highest honor an athlete can achieve brings a great sense of pride and can create heartfelt, lasting memories.

The Olympic Games, originally known as the Ancient Olympic Games, began in Olympia, Greece,

from the 8th century B.C. and lasted until the 4th century A.D.

In 1894, Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee that has since become the governing body of the games, which has seen many changes over the years.

In this year's iteration, approximately 10,500 athletes from 204 different nations are competing in London, making it the largest multisport event ever to be held in the United Kingdom.

With more than 65 different sports and disciplines in this year's Olympic Games, it is hard not to find a favorite. Whether it is watching Michael Phelps go for yet another medal in the pool

or watching the U.S. men's basketball team attempt to bring home the gold for the second straight summer Olympic Games, everyone has a specific event they can enjoy.

Some of this year's events include: cycling, archery, diving, rowing, weight lifting, boxing, wrestling, water polo and many more.

Aside from the excitement of watching the events, many fans tune in for the

always-dazzling opening ceremony. As the speeches are given and the host country's flag is raised, athletes start to feel the heat as the Olympic torch is lit and the games begin.

As the speeches are given the host country's flag is raised, athletes start to feel the heat as the Olympic torch is lit, and the games begin.

The games, which bring an indignant pride to each country participating, come to a different host nation for each iteration, requiring host nations to prepare for the event many years in advance.

While the next time the games will return to the U.S. is still undetermined, as fans, we wait patiently for the day we can root not only from our TV screens, but from the sidelines.

For a list of events playing on the American Forces Network, visit <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/events/2012/summer-olympics/>

Peacock is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

AROUND THE CORPS



Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, left, talks with Marines in a guard post at Combat Outpost Taghaz, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 21. Berger and his staff visited Taghaz to review the status of operations with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and Afghan border police. Berger is the commanding general of 1st Marine Division (Forward). Photo by Sgt. Sheila Brooks



Marine Corps military free-fall instructors release the ashes of Sgt. Brett Jaffe above Phillips Drop Zone at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., July 26. "It was an honor and privilege to take this Marine on his last jump and give him a proper hail and farewell," said Staff Sgt. Marty Rhett. Rhett is a free-fall instructor. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Johnny Gunn



U.S. and French Marines work together to complete an obstacle at Fort de Penthièvre, Brittany, France, July 22. The U.S. Marines participated in a series of training events with the French Marines in order to strengthen relations between the two countries' militaries. The U.S. Marines are with II Marine Expeditionary Force, and the French Marines are with the French Army's 3rd Marine Regiment. Photo by Cpl. Joshua Hines

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Camp Foster

DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

Security platoon maintains mission readiness

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

okinawa marine staff

CAMP SCHWAB — Marines with security platoon conducted security-operations training at the Central Training Area at Camp Schwab July 16-22.

The platoon, part of Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, consists of Marines of various military occupational specialties throughout the battalion.

“The main purpose of the (platoon) is to provide expeditionary security in the event the division goes forward (for) contingency operations,” said 1st Lt. Christopher A. Meadows, security platoon commander. “We are also the commanding general’s personal security detachment.”

The platoon conducts specialized training monthly to ensure mission readiness, according to Meadows.

“Since we have had a lot of new Marines come to the unit, we reset the training schedule so we can have everyone on the same page,” said Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Rodriguez, a Marine Air-Ground Task Force planning specialist with the battalion. “We are ensuring (that) those new to this unit are proficient in operating crew-served weapons. We are also doing nighttime-firing drills, convoys and security operations.”

The Marines are required to learn the characteristics and functionality of crew-served weapons before being allowed to fire, according to Meadows.

“We are performing assembly and disassembly drills with the MK19 40 mm grenade launcher and M240B medium machine gun, as well as loading procedures and failure-to-fire drills,” said Lance Cpl. Howard F. Gidden II, a technical controller with the battalion. “Once we prove proficient in these drills, we



Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Pechay disassembles an M240B medium machine gun during security-operations training at Camp Schwab July 20. Pechay is an automotive maintenance technician with Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

will transition into mounted firing for these weapons systems.”

This is the first weeklong training evolution Gidden has taken part in with security platoon.

“It is different from what I am used to, but we have done some good training and I look forward to learning more,” said Gidden.

One thing the Marines with security platoon have to adjust to is the environment in which they train, according to Gidden.

“For my primary job, I work with a lot of computers and we always have air conditioning to keep the equipment from overheating,” said Gidden. “That is not the case with this unit. We

are out here training in the elements. Rain or shine, we keep training.”

For the senior Marines of the platoon, educating Gidden and the rest of the Marines is the key to their success.

“The biggest obstacle faced when we get new Marines to the platoon is helping them understand the (importance of the) structure of the platoon,” said Rodriguez. “If they go up to their squad leader with a question before asking their fire-team leader, the squad leader will make them go ask their fire-team leader. It takes a little time to adjust to this, but our newer Marines (are adapting) well.”

Safety paramount while riding all-terrain vehicles

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

okinawa marine staff

CAMP FOSTER — The exhilaration of riding an all-terrain vehicle or dirt bike is a thrill many service members enjoy.

While opportunities to ride these vehicles are limited on Okinawa, service members need to be sure safety precautions are taken when the opportunity does arise.

With safety in mind, operating these vehicles can be a fun pastime, according to Paul E. Green, a traffic safety specialist with the Marine Corps Installations Pacific installation safety office.

“Our goal, when riders come to us for training, is to (make) them aware of the risks associated with unsafe riding,” said Green. “The same operational risk-management that service members apply in their daily duties needs to correlate with their off-duty activities as well.”

Individuals who operate personally owned off-road motorcycles, light-utility vehicles and ATVs off-installation must participate in the installation or local dealership’s off-road motorcycle, ATV or LUV course, according to Marine Corps Order 5100.19F.

“It’s important for service members to realize when they go home on leave and jump back into riding that they need to take it slow,” said Green. “The reality is, when you haven’t done something for awhile, you need to ease your way back into it as safely as possible.”

To help keep riders safe from the effects of crashes or falls, proper protective equipment should be worn at all times when operating off-road vehicles, according to Pat Yamashiro, a training technician with the MCIPAC installation safety office.

Critical Days of Summer
Safety ... look beyond the horizon

“The PPE that should be worn includes: a helmet, eye protection, gloves, boots, and appropriate clothing such as long sleeve shirts and pants,” said Yamashiro. “I would recommend extra protective gear such as a chest protector, shoulder pads, and pants with knee and shin pads, as long as they still allow the rider to maneuver the vehicle accordingly.”

Riders planning for an extended ride should remember operating off-road vehicles fatigues riders faster than driving a car, according to Yamashiro.

Never ride alone on long rides, and remember to bring extra fuel and snacks, he added.

Service members have the personal responsibility to prevent injuries. The loss of a service member due to injury can be debilitating to the entire unit.

“You always want to seek to better yourself in everything you do, and you do that through proper training,” said Yamashiro. “We feel like service members receiving the proper training and awareness about off-road vehicle safety increases their chances of avoiding an accident.”

BRIEFS

EWS AND CWS NEEDS INSTRUCTORS

The Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education programs are seeking instructors for academic year 2013 seminars, which convene Oct. 1.

Instructors must currently have a rank from major to colonel, be career level school or intermediate level school complete, and have experience in the operational forces. Instructors will get the opportunity to mentor junior officers and shape the Corps' future.

For more information contact Dale Smith for CSC at dsmith@cots.com, Scott Uecker for EWS at suecker@cots.com, or call the College of Distance Education and Training at 645-2230 or 645-2500.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING

The Substance Abuse Counseling Center and Counseling and Advocacy program will host "Brief and Effective Therapy" training by Dr. Barry L. Duncan, Psy.D., Aug. 13-15 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the northern breeze conference room at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster.

Topics will include common factors of effective therapy, ethics of diagnosis, continued treatment, how change in therapy occurs, supervision and professional development, and utilizing client feedback.

Register by Aug. 10 by contacting Jaimel Bennett-Lee at 645-5585 or jaimel.bennettlee@usmc.mil, or Pooying Kimball-Bourgeoise at 645-3381 or pooying.kimball-bourgeoise@usmc.mil.

DEPLOYMENT WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

Join Marine Corps Family Team Building for the Families During Deployment Workshop Aug. 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. Parents will participate in a workshop where they will learn to assess their child's behavior, promote healthy coping habits, and improve communication with their children. Children and teens can enjoy interactive games and activities that will help them express their feelings and better cope with their parent's deployment.

For more information or to register, call MCFTB at 645-3689.

YOUNG MARINE PROGRAM

The Okinawa battalion of Young Marines will be hosting a recruiting and registration session for their upcoming boot camp at the Camp Foster Marine Corps Community Services auditorium, building 5908, from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 4. The boot camp will occur on Camp Foster Saturday mornings from Sept. 14 to Nov. 4 with some overnight events.

For more information, visit www.youngmarines.com or contact Master Sgt. Joseph L. Davila, Young Marines Okinawa battalion commander and regional coordinator, at joseph.davila@usmc.mil.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Naval hospital opens doors to students

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
okinawa marine staff

CAMP LESTER — Students of AmerAsian School of Okinawa and Kubasaki High School visited the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester to participate in the science, service, medicine and mentoring program July 23-27.

The program, also known as S2M2, is designed to provide learning opportunities to high school students interested in pursuing a career in science or medicine.

"This program has been in the U.S. since 2007, but this is the first time we have done it here," said Navy Lt. So Y. Newton, the head of staff education and training at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

Newton began planning for implementation of this program at the hospital about two months ago.

"I have always wanted an opportunity like this for my students," said Midori Thayer, the principal and founder of AmerAsian School of Okinawa. "The hospital reached out and asked if I would like to participate, and I was so excited to

bring them here."

During the weeklong summer program, the students toured the operating room, cast room and research lab. They also learned about the pharmacy, preventive medicine and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"I think this program is fantastic," said Lt. Cmdr. Emeka Ofo-bike, the head of the orthopedics department at the hospital. "The students get to come into the hospital, see what the medical field entails, and experience a lot of hands-on training."

"The students have never had such a big opportunity," said Midori.

While the students toured the hospital, they had the chance to experience having a cast firsthand.

"We actually sent the children home with a cast on their arm," said Newton. "Many of the students were excited to play with the casts, but they don't realize how tedious it really is to have a broken bone. We placed a cast on each one of the children's dominant arm, so they could experience what it is like when something as simple as combing their hair or brushing



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Marco Brown places a cast on Erica Jones during the science, service, medicine and mentoring program at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester July 23. Jones is a student of AmerAsian School of Okinawa, and Brown is an orthopedic technician with the hospital. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

their teeth becomes difficult."

The orthopedic technicians removed the casts from the children's arms the next day.

This is the first time the program has been brought to this hospital, but will not likely be the last.

"If everything goes well, we hope to have more training during winter break," said Newton. "Hopefully we can expand it to (other) schools."

Riders club promotes motorcycle safety

Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
okinawa marine staff

CAMP HANSEN — Twenty five riders with Marine Corps Installations Pacific's installation riding club participated in a motorcycle ride to promote safety July 25.

The group ride, which began at Camp Hansen, was conducted to practice motorcycle safety and gave participants a chance to learn from each other.

"The purpose of the ride was to meet requirements set forth by the commandant of the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Jorge Galvan, a member of the riding club and a radio chief with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Quarterly rides were established to introduce new riders to their mentors, teach and practice safe riding skills, and build trust and camaraderie with all riders."

Riders completed safety inspections on each other's bikes before getting on the road.

"Safety inspections are very important. You can identify problems your bike may have, which can potentially create a malfunction or accident," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Eliseo Garza, the leading chief petty officer with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

It is very important to complete a safety inspection anytime a rider decides to operate his motorcycle, according to Galvan.

"Motorcycle safety is important no matter where you are, but Okinawa is an unfamiliar place to most riders and presents hazards such as simply driving on the opposite side of the road, conges-



Members of the Marine Corps Installations Pacific installation riding club prepare to depart from their halfway point at a local track during a ride to promote motorcycle safety July 25. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

tive traffic, smaller roads, and the condition of the roads themselves," said Paul Green, a representative with the installation safety office, MCIPAC, and an instructor at the basic riders course.

The group used a local track as its halfway point, which offered a safe area for novice riders to learn from experienced riders.

"The track (provided) opportunities for some to practice their skills away from cars," said Garza.

Riders were grouped by experience during the event. Those with less than one year of riding experience were paired with those with five or more years, so the seasoned riders could look out for the less experienced.

"I hope that events like this will continue, and more Marines and sailors will become involved," said Galvan.

Anyone trying to get involved in the program can contact the installation riding club at mcbbutlerirc@usmc.mil

CLB-4 advance party returns



Fourteen-month-old David M. Beehler II and his mother Shanna anxiously await a hug from Capt. David M. Beehler upon his return to Camp Foster July 30. Beehler returned with the Combat Logistics Battalion 4 advance party after being deployed to Afghanistan for seven months. Beehler is the training and operations action officer for CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

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during Operation Tomodachi.

"The students of Iitate Village wanted to come visit the Marines to say thank you for their assistance during Operation Tomodachi," said Urasaki. "These visits show the Japanese the importance of peace and how we are here to help."

Operation Tomodachi was a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation to support recovery efforts after an earthquake and subsequent tsunami impacted Japan in March 2011. On April 22, 2011, the Japanese government asked residents to leave Iitate Village due to radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, which occurred after a tsunami hit the nuclear power plant. Residents of Iitate Village are still unable to return home.

"It's just terrible how they had to leave their homes, but it was a great pleasure to have them here," said Col. John C. Wright, chief of staff, MCIPAC. "I hope one day they will be able to return to their village."

As the class stood up with its books in hand, it read one final goodbye to Eldridge, thanking him for the lesson he taught and the knowledge it gained. The students finished off their trip with a tour of Camp Foster and lunch at the food court.



Elementary school students listen to Dr. Robert D. Eldridge July 25 at Camp Foster. The students' visit was part of the schools' three-year project and study trip, which the board of education hopes will show the students the importance of peace. The students are from Iitate Village in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs office.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

KMEP from pg 1

Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The objective is to give the Marines the best training possible and also remain safe in the process."

"I want my Marines to build a good relationship with the ROK military," said Whitfield. "It is an excellent opportunity for us to learn something from them and for them to learn something from us."

During the exercise, the ROK and U.S. Marines patrolled to the maneuver range, conducted fire-and-maneuver exercises, and patrolled through a mock chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear scenario.

"The Marines received excellent training," said Sgt. Harold Van, an embark specialist with the regiment. "For many of them, this is their first field operation and it's not often they receive this level of training and work together with the ROK Marines. We are able to see how they operate in the field and learn from them by training side by side."

The overall goal of KMEP 12-7 is to enhance the combined capabilities of both forces.

"I think this exercise provides us with an excellent opportunity to build a relationship with the U.S. Marine Corps," said Master Sgt. Lee Chong Sop, a medic with 8th Battalion, 2nd ROK Marine Division. "My goal for my Marines is for them to learn from the experience of the U.S. Marines and also to enhance (their) relationship with them."

KMEP 12-7, which continues until Aug. 14, is a regularly scheduled, combined training exercise, which enhances the readiness and interoperability of both ROK and U.S. Marine Corps forces.

BARTOK from pg 1

security studies, and has spent 2 1/2 years studying Japanese.

"I will be working for III MEF and the JGSDF as the connection between the two services," said Bartok. "I will coordinate training, filter information, and be a face for the Marine Corps."

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III MEF, escorted Bartok to the JGSDF's Western Army headquarters where there was a welcoming ceremony and a brief about future training opportunities.

"I thought it was very important that I brought Bartok here personally and introduced him to the headquarters because this is a significant occasion," said Glueck.

There is a Marine with Marine Forces Pacific attached to the Ground Staff Office in Tokyo, but Bartok will be the first Marine to serve as an LNO to the JGSDF.

"This is very humbling," said Bartok. "I'm excited because this is something I have trained for. To be asked to use your skills to do something this important is always a great opportunity."

The new billet will benefit both the Marine Corps and the JGSDF, according to Bartok.

"For the Marine Corps, this will build relationships at a personal level with the Western Army," said Bartok. "We have done a lot of training with the JGSDF, now the coordination will be more in depth. They have (a) liaison with us (on Okinawa), but we have never had a liaison with them."

"Having a Marine liaison will also help smooth out coordination for training," said Bartok. "Also, for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, it will help immensely," he added. "If there were to be a natural disaster in the Western Army's area of operation, the Marine Corps would have a voice to start coordinating and getting information on (the exact requirements)."

Both the Marine Corps and the Western Army are very optimistic about the future, according to Bartok.

"The level of cooperation between us is very high, and we would like to maintain that between the U.S. and the Western Army," said Lt. Gen. Toshihiro Miyashita, the assistant commanding general for the Western Army. "We hope this will lead to more bilateral training."

The relationship created during the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and Operation Tomadachi has carried on, and both countries look forward to seeing the relationship grow stronger, according to Glueck.

"I hope to create a lot of engagement opportunities and give Marines more chances to work with the JGSDF," said Bartok. "I would also like to help the JGSDF with whatever they would like from the Marine Corps."



A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter passes above Ie Shima during parachute training July 26. Part of the island, which is located off the northwest coast of Okinawa, is a designated parachute operations and training facility.

5,000

Special forces make leap of faith

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
okinawa marine staff

As cold air rushed through the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter, Army special forces and their Navy team members prepared themselves for a leap 5,000 feet above their landing zone.

Soldiers and sailors with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), practiced their parachuting skills with the help of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, July 26.

Pilots with the squadron flew two CH-46Es in the skies over Ie Shima, Okinawa, Japan, enabling the service members to conduct parachute training.

"We enjoyed helping the unit with this (training)," said Capt. Vladimir Y. Yarnykh, a Marine Corps CH-46E pilot with the squadron. "We have taken them out several times to help with parachute (training), and we plan to help with future (training) as well."

The service members practiced static-line parachuting, during which a static line is attached to one end of the aircraft while the other end is attached to the pilot chute inside the jumper's backpack. This opens a jumper's parachute automatically upon exiting the aircraft.

In addition to static-line parachuting, the service members also performed free-fall parachute jumps.

"Though people may think it's not a perishable skill, it really is," said one of the Navy jumpers.

"If we don't practice jumping constantly, then we won't be able to do all our formation landings and jumps well."

The unit's airborne group frequently conducts parachute training evolutions to ensure its service members can perform their jumps safely when called upon.

"Safety is our number one priority with the jumps," said the Army senior medic for the battalion. "Wind, weather and location all play a part in a successful jump. If the wind is too (strong), then we may not be able to control where we land, and if there are thick clouds, we won't be able to see."

To help ensure safety, Marine pilots communicated with Army Special Forces support personnel on the ground at the drop zone.

"Communication between people on the ground and the pilots is paramount to ensure a safe jump," said an Army jumper. "If we go to jump, and there are clouds (obscuring our view of the drop zone), we have to be sure everything is safe on the ground. If it's not, then we have to cancel the jump."

As the training came to an end, the service members gathered and discussed the training evolution.

"The training went well," said the battalion's senior medic. "Everyone did their part and landed in formation like they were supposed to. Some had a few problems with their parachutes at first, but the important thing is that we know what improvements can be made, and we make (future jumps)."



A sailor looks out the back of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during parachute training at Ie Shima July 26. The training was conducted to maintain parachuting proficiency. A team of soldiers and sailors with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) was flown by pilots with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265.

feet above

Background photo: Service members jump out of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during parachute training over Ie Shima, Okinawa, Japan, July 26. Pilots with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 provided the jump platform via their CH-46Es to enable the training. The service members are with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), stationed at Torii Station. HMM-265 is with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Service members prepare for their jump over Ie Shima July 26. The service members worked with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 to conduct parachute training and sustain readiness. "We practice jumping quite regularly to maintain the skill, so we are always ready to deploy," said one of the jumpers. The service members are with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Disaster preparedness critical, involves everyone

1stLt. Jeanscott Dodd
okinawa marine staff

The military offers individuals the opportunity to live in a variety of locations around the world, each with unique, natural regional dangers.

In Alaska, personnel and family members must prepare for cold temperatures and heavy snowfall. In the Midwest region of the U.S., it is important to take into account the potential for tornadoes. For those assigned to Okinawa, typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis are potential threats, which can be mitigated with the right disaster preparedness information and planning.

"The critical thing for people to understand, regardless of what kind of a natural disaster we're talking about or whether they are new to Okinawa or heading to their next duty station, is that they need to have a discussion about what to do and where to go should an event occur," said Mr. Mike M. Lacey, the regional installation emergency manager for Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Everyone should develop an evacuation plan and have rally points set for work or school days and recreational activities in addition to knowing where on-base safe havens and shelters are located."

It is a personal responsibility for individuals not only to have a plan in place, but also to know where to get crucial information from during a disaster and to ask the right questions now, before it is too late, according to Lacey.

Another important precaution everyone should take is to stock up on critical supplies and maintain a disaster preparedness kit, according to Carl D. Hinson, the installation emergency management analyst for MCIPAC.

When preparing for a natural disaster on Okinawa, it is important for individuals to note

that typhoon season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, is not the only time to prepare and maintain a deliberate plan. Earthquakes and tsunamis are naturally occurring disasters, often with little or no warning, which can cause immediate devastation and are not seasonal but year-round threats.

"Earthquakes can cause damage to buildings and other structures on the ground as a result of the ground shaking created and can even result in fires through the damage of electrical power or gas lines," said Hinson. "There is also the threat of a tsunami in the aftermath of an earthquake."

Tsunamis, which are long-wavelength, long-period sea waves produced by the sudden movement of large volumes of water, can overrun coastal areas in a matter of minutes, traveling thousands of kilometers across the ocean and wreaking destruction on shores hours after the earthquake that generated them, according to Hinson.

"Since earthquakes and tsunamis can occur at anytime, it is essential that everyone makes it a priority to think critically about how ready they would be today if a disaster struck Okinawa," said Lacey. "Would they know who to call or where to go? Would they have the necessary supplies on hand? These are the questions to ask now."

MCIPAC is in the process of developing an audible, installation-wide warning system, which will provide notification that a tsunami warning has been generated, ensuring personnel and their families can put their plans into action when they hear that sound, according to Lacey.

MCIPAC plans to test the system soon and will publicize information regarding this test once it is available. The Okinawa Marine will have more information on the system and testing in the near future.

For more information on disaster preparedness, contact your camp's emergency management representative.

DISASTER KIT

BOTTLED WATER

- At least one gallon daily per person for up to seven days.

FOOD

- Stock enough food for at least seven days, consisting of non-perishable packaged or canned foods and juices, and any special foods for infants or the elderly.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Non-electric can opener
- Gas-powered cooker with fuel
- Disposable plates and utensils
- Blankets and pillows
- Clothing to include rain gear and sturdy shoes
- First-aid kit
- Toiletries and hygiene items
- Flashlights and batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Whistle
- Fire extinguisher, matches
- Dust mask
- Charged cell phone, extra battery
- Cash (dollars and yen)
- Credit Cards (banks and bank teller machines may not be accessible)
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Towels, rags and mops
- Keys, local maps
- Place important documents such as insurance papers, medical records, banking information, birth certificates and Social Security cards in a waterproof container

FOR THOSE WITH PETS

- Proper identification, immunization records and medications
- Ample food and water
- A carrier or cage
- A muzzle and leash

World's largest maritime exercise concludes



Below: Canadian Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Walter Natynczyk speaks with Canadian Army soldiers and U.S. Marines July 21 at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, while touring the PTA during Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2012.

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth.

Left: Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 take off after delivering Marines and Canadian soldiers during a noncombatant evacuation operation exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, July 26 during RIMPAC. Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder.

From June 29 to Aug. 3, more than 25,000 military personnel from 22 nations, 200 aircraft, and 40 ships and submarines participated in RIMPAC, the world's largest international maritime exercise.





Reconnaissance Marines perform rappelling and fast-rope maneuvers at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25. The Marines are with Force Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



A reconnaissance Marine traverses across the water-crossing lane during reconnaissance training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25. The purpose of the training was to improve tactics, techniques and procedures for operating in a jungle environment. The Marine is with Force Company.



Reconnaissance Marines conduct water-crossing training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25. The Marines practiced various methods for crossing water to evaluate speed, noise discipline and the ability to stay dry. The Marines also learned various ways to efficiently transport personnel and equipment across water hazards. The Marines are with Force Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Recon Marines prepare for MEU exercise

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning
okinawa marine staff

As the wind drives down the valley making trees sway, the Jungle Warfare Training Center's next students prepare to descend. Each has been trained and equipped for the task. Each, in turn, will go over the edge and test their mettle against gravity, rappelling in the Okinawa jungle.

Marines and sailors with Force Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted reconnaissance training at Camp Gonsalves' JWTC July 24 – Aug. 2.

The purpose of the training was to complete operational requirements before taking part in certification exercise with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to Sgt. Kyle J. Becker, a reconnaissance man with the company.

"We are here to practice our tactics, techniques and procedures while conducting reconnaissance missions in the Asia-Pacific region," said Becker. "The first few days we went over water crossing and rappelling techniques. It is a good environment (from which) to learn, and the staff has definitely helped. We are already familiar with these types of operations, but we have been able to build upon the fundamentals and try new procedures for crossing water obstacles."

Relying on bridges or obvious crossing points is not always the best choice when in combat, according to Cpl. Blake M. Cameron, an instructor at the center.

"One good reason to conduct a water-obstacle crossing is that it greatly increases the mobility of your squad. You will not be

limited to areas where the enemy may be planning to ambush you," said Cameron.

The company received a period of instruction on water-crossing procedures and then was given the chance to practice different techniques.

"We are all amphibious, so we do a lot of water-to-land operations," said Petty Officer 3rd Class A. Volk Sergoan, a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with the company. "The facilities at the jungle warfare training center provided us with a good staging point to set up standard operating procedures within our teams."

Environmental and enemy threats are the two major elements that pose a risk when conducting a water crossing, according to Cameron.

"The environmental threat brings the drowning possibility because of either swimming ability or the water's current," said Cameron. "The other threat (is) enemies who may attack (our forces) during a period of vulnerability while in the water."

The Marines and sailors with the company worked on various methods to decrease the danger of these threats.

"Each squad learned different ways to cross, so they could adapt to the requirements of the mission," said Sergoan. "We focused on crossing speed, maintaining sound discipline, and keeping our equipment dry."

This training evolution is the first time many of the Marines and sailors have been to the jungle warfare training center, according to Becker.

"Some of the guys have been here before and have been telling us how hard the training is, but we are looking forward to the challenges we will face and the lessons we will learn while we are here," said Becker.

Marine from Afghanistan gives back to home nation

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

1st marine logistics group (fwd)

“I remember the day I heard that (the U.S.) was going into Afghanistan. My parents were happy because it was a chance for Afghanistan to unite and fight for freedom. They said it was the only way that injustice in Afghanistan would be finished.”

The idea of providing a better future for the Afghan people resonated with Lance Cpl. Behzad Razzada, a member of the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and native of Afghanistan.

“I was born in Kabul and lived there until I was 10,” said Razzada. “I went to school there. It was just a normal school like anywhere else before the Taliban came. I studied until the fifth grade ... and then chaos started. Everyone started leaving the country, all heading in one direction and hoping they didn’t get killed by the Taliban.”

Razzada’s family left the country after the Taliban implemented its harsh policies.

“I was pretty young, but I remember (the Taliban) beheading people, making people wear certain type of clothes, and (imposing) certain hygiene standards,” said Razzada. “People who worked for the previous government were all in danger. Anyone who killed (employers of) the

previous government would be rewarded, and my father had held a high position.”

Travelling to Pakistan with his family, Razzada spent the next three years in school, where he studied math, science and English, while his family applied for permission to immigrate to the U.S.

“We didn’t know if we were going to come to the United States,” said Razzada. “People used to say that the chance of successfully making (it) to the U.S. (was) about 10 percent. When we left Afghanistan we couldn’t stay in Pakistan because they were still killing members of the former (Afghan) government there, and that’s why we were accepted. We came to America with refugee status, so we were part of that 10 percent.”

Razzada’s time in Afghanistan and Pakistan would serve him well, both later in life when he returned to the region as a Marine and more immediately when he began primary school in St. Louis.

“My English was decent, so I started school right away. The culture was extremely different though,” he added.

After graduating high school and attending college, Razzada joined the Marines.

“I joined the Marine Corps after two years in college,” said Razzada. “I am going to finish my school, so the Marine Corps is a good way to pay for college and be part of the military at



Lance Cpl. Behzad Razzada, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), returned to Afghanistan as a Marine 14 years after leaving the country following the Taliban’s rise to power. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

the same time.”

CLB-4 was already training for its deployment when Razzada joined the battalion.

“I had to talk to my parents and tell them that I was going to get deployed,” said Razzada.

“They told me it was a good chance for me to go and be a helping hand because I was from the country. They told me to go and do my best.”

Razzada is in an ideal place to make a difference while assigned to the EPT.

“I speak Dari, a little bit of Pashtun, Hindi and Urdu along with English,” said Razzada. “I had the perfect chance to help, especially having the (chain of command) I did, who let me interact with the (Afghan National Army) as much possible.”

Taking such a hands-on approach to helping build a better future for the Afghan people

served Razzada.

“Like every other Marine on my team, he is mature beyond his years, and he was always looking forward to helping,” said Maj. Charles E. Parker Jr., officer in charge, EPT, CLB-4.

“He had a strong bond with our interpreters and I would bring him along sometimes to (meetings), and he could help fill me in on the perception and mood among the ANA.”

Razzada brought his journey full circle when he returned to Afghanistan as a Marine and helped rebuild the country in the aftermath of Taliban rule.

“I’m extremely happy that I had this experience,” said Razzada. “What the EPT has done is make the ANA more confident in themselves and make them more capable when they are out there on their own. We accomplished our mission.”

Marines prepare Okinawan students for trip to US

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

okinawa marine staff

Saturday morning in Okinawa: Marines and students are sitting around a table talking and laughing at jokes. However, they are not just being casual; the Okinawan students are preparing for a trip to San Francisco.

Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, volunteered to help students of various information technology schools with their English communication skills at Okinawa IT Shinryo Park in Uruma City July 21 to prepare them for their trip.

The trip to San Francisco, slated for the end of August, is for the students to meet IT engineers and experience American culture.

The students have been holding English conversations with Marines for several weeks to prepare for their trip.

“We are here to help the (students) with their English communication skills,” said Lance Cpl. Justin R. Blackburn, a CH-46 helicopter mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, MAG-36. “We are also enjoying ourselves and making some new friends.”

These individuals want to do more than the average teenager, according to Kari Miyakoshi, the group leader.

“I never went to high school,” said Nozomi Teruya, a student with the group. “Right after I finished middle school I started studying here at IT Shinryo Park. I’ve been here for four years now and hope when I go to San Francisco on our trip I will be able to get a job.”

The students hope that in the near future they will be able to increase their capabilities through the program.

“We try to make it possible for the students of the program to better themselves in their knowledge and communication skills,” said Miyakoshi.



Marines and students gather around Nozomi Teruya’s phone to watch a video while practicing English at Okinawa Information Technology Shinryo Park in Uruma City July 20. Teruya made the video and is an IT student. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

In Theaters Now

AUGUST 3 - 9

FOSTER

TODAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 6 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Battleship (PG13), noon; The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.; The Dictator (R), 10 p.m.

SUNDAY To be determined

MONDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Dictator (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Think Like a Man (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Watch (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.

SUNDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.

MONDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 3 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 3 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Watch (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 2 p.m.; Battleship (PG13), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 2 p.m.; Men In Black 3 (PG13), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Watch (R), 4 and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY The Raven (R), 4 p.m.; The Watch (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Savages (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 3 p.m.; Step Up Revolution (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 3 p.m.; Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY The Watch (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Brave (PG), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6 p.m.; Safe (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 2 p.m.; Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13) 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY The Watch (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY The Watch (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Step Up Revolution (PG13) 7 p.m.

THURSDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Battleship (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.

SUNDAY Chernobyl Diaries (R), 5 and 8 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465

KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869

(USO NIGHT) 632-8781

MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890

(USO NIGHT) 636-2113

CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616

CAMP HANSEN 623-4564

(USO NIGHT) 623-5011

CAMP KINSER 637-2177

CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333

(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- E.C. Killin Elementary School is in need of volunteers Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help reorganize its computer lab. Sign up by Aug. 7 to volunteer.
- Taiyo Golf Club is looking for volunteers for its junior golf event Aug. 21 and 22 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up by Aug. 20.
- The Thrift Shop needs volunteers every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers can sign in at the SMP office a few minutes prior. Lunch will be provided.

DISCOVER GOLF — FREE GOLF LESSONS

- Taiyo Golf Course is hosting free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Kiotsukete”

(pronounced:

kee-oh-tsu-keh-teh)

It means,

“Take care”



July 23-27

RIFLE RANGE

Staff Sgt. David Cole
3rd Marine Division, 339



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“So, as we serve, may we also remember those who serve with us!”

Story reminds to honor all

Lt. Cmdr. Mark Tanis
camp butler chaplain

In the good old days, when an ice cream sundae cost much less, there was a story that reminded us to always remember those who served.

In the story, a skinny 10-year-old boy enters a hotel coffee shop and sits down at a table. The waitress comes over and slides a cloudy glass of water in front of him.

He asks, “How much is an ice cream sundae?”

“50 cents,” replies the waitress.

The little boy pulls his hand out of his pocket and studies the coins he holds.

“Well, umm ... How much is a plain dish of ice cream?” he inquires further.

By now, more people are waiting for a table and the waitress grows more and more impatient.

“35 cents,” she replies brusquely.

The little boy counts his coins again.

Looking up to her, he says, “I’ll have the plain ice cream then, ma’am.”

The waitress brings the ice cream,

puts the bill down quickly on the table, and walks away, never making eye contact. The young boy finishes his ice cream, pays the cashier at the counter near the doorway, and leaves, satisfied with his decision. When the waitress returns to pick up the dishes, she begins to cry as she wipes the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, are two nickels and five pennies.

You see, the boy could not have the ice cream sundae because he wanted to have enough left over to leave the waitress a tip.

That story is posted on numerous personal blogs and many inspirational websites. It is only ever given credit as “author unknown” or by “anonymous.” It is often lumped in with four other short stories, altogether called “Lessons for Life.” I like to use it for a sermon illustration or character-building lesson because, at 10 years old, that little boy knew more about honoring those who serve than many people older than him. So, as we serve, may we also remember those who serve with us!

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX